



Crop Weather Report

Issue: **08-02**

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For the Month Ending:
Feb. 29, 2008

Weather Summary

For the month ending February 29th, Montana received light to moderate precipitation. Seeley Lake received the most accumulated moisture for the month at 2.44 inches. Belgrade set a new precipitation record on February 25th of 0.15 of an inch, replacing the previous record of 0.13 of an inch. Boulder and Shelby had record high snowfalls on Feb 25th of 3.5 inches and 0.60 of an inch, respectively. Other precipitation records for February 25th were Belgrade and Shelby with 0.15 and 0.60 of an inch, respectively. Highs were mostly in the 40s to 50s, and low temperatures ranged from the negative 20s to the positive 20s during the month. Plentywood had the low of minus 21 degrees, and Choteau had the high temperature of 63 degrees. Topsoil moisture adequate and surplus is 34 percent, above last month's 32 percent, but below last year's 75 percent. Subsoil moisture adequate and surplus is 24 percent, above last month's 21 percent, but below last year's 37 percent.

The weather outlook for March 10th through March 16th is for above normal temperatures and near normal precipitation both east and west of the continental divide. Normal temperatures for this period in Montana are highs in the mid 30s to the mid 40s and lows ranging from zero to the mid 20s.

Livestock Report

Sixteen percent of pastures are closed for grazing compared to 20 percent last month and 21 percent last year. The number of livestock receiving supplemental feed is still high. Ranchers are keeping busy as calving and lambing are well underway.

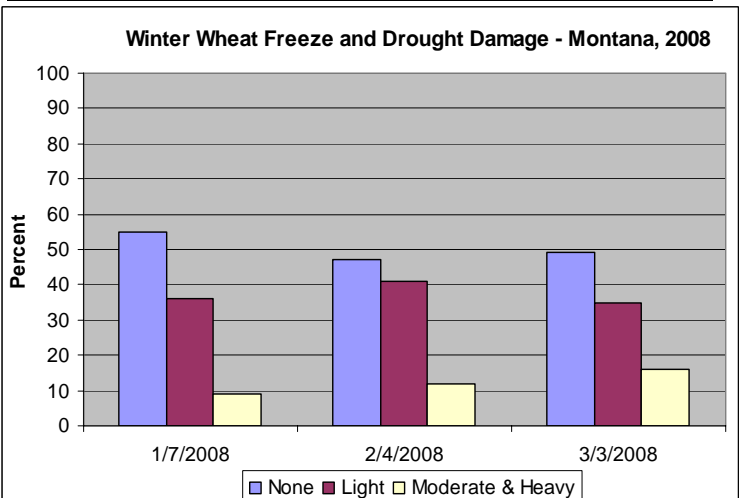
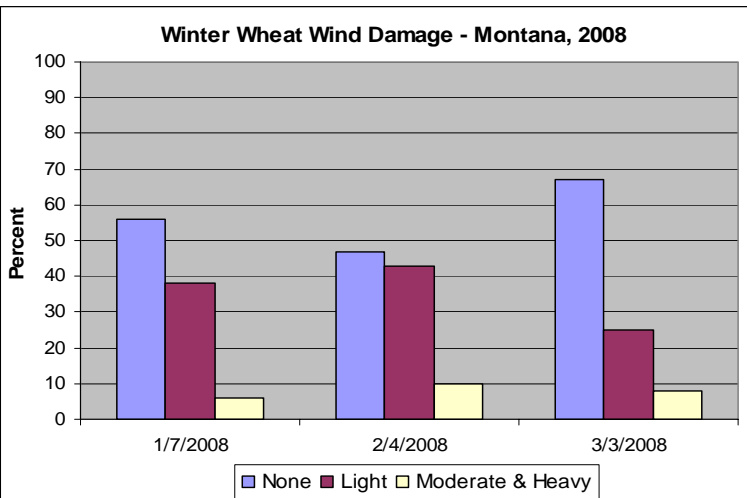
Pasture Condition and Feed	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
Livestock Birthing			
Calving Completed	26	4	26
Lambing Completed	17	1	9
Livestock Grazing			
Open	62	51	52
Difficult	22	29	27
Closed	16	20	21
Receiving Supplemental Feed			
Cattle & Calves	96	96	97
Sheep & Lambs	96	95	96

Soil Moisture Table	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	20	27	3
Short	46	41	22
Adequate	33	31	72
Surplus	1	1	3
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	33	39	17
Short	43	40	46
Adequate	23	20	36
Surplus	1	1	1

Field Crops Report

Winter wheat condition, good and excellent, is better than last month and last year with 35 percent good to excellent this month, 32 percent last month, and 34 percent last year. Damage to winter wheat is still relatively low. Winter wheat affected by wind, moderate to heavy, is eight percent. Sixteen percent of the crop is rated moderate to heavy for damage from freeze and drought. Snow cover is worse than last month and last year.

Crop Condition Table	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
Winter Wheat			
Very Poor	3	3	0
Poor	13	12	2
Fair	49	53	64
Good	32	29	28
Excellent	3	3	6
Winter Wheat-Wind Damage			
None	67	47	39
Light	25	43	52
Moderate	6	9	8
Heavy	2	1	1
Winter Wheat-Freeze and Drought Damage			
None	49	47	49
Light	35	41	48
Moderate	14	11	3
Heavy	2	1	0
Winter Wheat- Protectiveness of Snow Cover			
Very Poor	68	45	23
Poor	14	33	9
Fair	13	11	50
Good	4	8	14
Excellent	1	3	4



Weather Information for the Month ending 02/29/2008

Station	Temperature				Precipitation February			Precipitation October 1 to date		
	Hi	Low	Avg	DFN	Total	DFN	% Nrm	Total	DFN	% Nrm
NORTHWEST										
Alberton	49	13	33	+4	1.31	+0.49	160	8.23	+3.46	173
Anaconda	54	7	29	+3	1.44	+0.96	300	5.46	+1.97	156
Clinton	50	8	29	+0	1.41	+0.59	172	7.20	+2.43	151
Corvallis	58	19	34	+4	0.53	-0.25	68	3.91	-1.04	79
Creston	48	11	32	+5	0.98	-0.21	82	3.42	-3.60	49
Deer Lodge	51	6	27	+4	0.43	+0.09	126	2.18	-0.18	92
Drummond	46	1	28	+0	0.81	+0.19	131	4.25	+0.20	105
Hamilton	50	17	33	+3	1.15	+0.37	147	5.38	+0.43	109
Kalispell	46	8	31	+5	0.48	-0.65	42	4.33	-2.23	66
Missoula	49	21	34	+6	0.87	+0.05	106	3.98	-0.79	83
Olney	46	0	27	+2	1.67	-0.53	76	11.55	+0.59	105
Polson	49	19	33	+2	0.32	-0.56	36	3.87	-1.69	70
St Ignatius	58	18	34	+4	0.62	-0.11	85	3.44	-1.66	67
Seeley Lake	49	2	29	+3	2.44	+0.68	139	9.57	-1.21	89
Sula	56	-1	27	-1	0.44	-0.40	52	4.85	-0.46	91
Superior	57	17	34	+2	0.86	-0.22	80	8.87	+1.60	122
Swan Lake	47	10	30	+3	1.93	-0.48	80	13.79	-0.37	97
Thompson Falls	55	18	36	+3	1.95	-0.12	94	14.24	+2.30	119
West Glacier	47	7	30	+3	2.34	-0.03	99	15.76	+1.68	112
NORTH CENTRAL										
Chester	53	-12	22	+0	0.31	+0.04	115	1.45	-0.44	77
Chinook	55	-19	17	-5	0.77	+0.50	285	1.97	-0.29	87
Choteau	63	-10	30	+2	0.48	+0.27	229	2.20	+0.60	138
Cut Bank	51	-11	27	+4	0.09	-0.22	29	0.89	-0.93	49
Ft Assiniboine	54	-16	20	-4	0.64	+0.28	178	1.52	-0.88	63
Fort Benton	52	-8	24	-4	0.52	+0.04	108	2.25	-0.98	70
Goldbutte	53	-14	24	-2	0.56	+0.24	175	2.03	-0.13	94
Harlem	56	-18	18	-3	0.36	+0.00	100	1.42	-0.84	63
Havre	54	-17	22	+1	0.69	+0.31	182	1.32	-1.03	56
Malta	53	-10	20	+4	0.39	+0.07	122	1.64	-0.45	78
Rudyard	53	-10	23	-2	0.22	-0.21	51	0.40	-2.43	14
Shelby	56	-8	25	+0	0.21	-0.07	75	1.09	-0.76	59
Turner	51	-15	18	+2	0.22	-0.10	69	1.12	-0.97	54
Valier	55	-12	28	+3	0.26	-0.02	93	1.82	-0.03	98
NORTHEAST										
Bredette	43	-20	14	-3	0.19	-0.06	76	2.33	+0.49	127
Culbertson	48	-15	17	+0	0.09	-0.19	32	1.61	-0.67	71
Glasgow	39	-11	17	-2	0.26	-0.02	93	2.09	+0.17	109
Glendive	49	-8	21	+1	0.42	+0.08	124	1.61	-0.82	66
Jordan	48	-7	20	-4	0.72	+0.37	206	2.85	+0.41	117
Nashua	51	-10	18	+2	0.21	-0.07	75	1.79	-0.13	93
Opheim	41	-20	14	+0	0.13	-0.20	39	2.11	+0.44	126
Plentywood	43	-21	14	-3	0.10	-0.15	40	1.88	+0.03	102
St Marie	40	-16	17	+0	0.08	-0.20	29	1.83	-0.09	95
Scobey	42	-13	15	-1	0.08	-0.17	32	2.22	+0.38	121
Sidney	48	-15	20	-1	0.08	-0.28	22	1.60	-1.00	62
Wolf Point	44	-11	17	-4	0.15	-0.21	42	1.25	-1.46	46
CENTRAL										
Cascade	52	-8	29	+2	2.05	+1.65	513	4.21	+1.24	142
Grass Range	58	-7	28	-1	0.43	+0.05	113	3.60	+0.28	108
Great Falls	57	-8	31	+4	0.40	-0.20	67	2.46	-1.34	65
Harlowton	56	-6	27	-2	0.28	-0.16	64	3.95	+1.20	144
Helena	49	2	31	+5	0.41	-0.02	95	2.43	-0.30	89
Lewistown	49	-7	27	+3	0.39	-0.27	59	2.48	-1.94	56
Martinsdale	55	-4	29	+2	0.37	+0.02	106	3.20	+0.51	119
Neihart	50	-8	27	+0	1.03	+0.30	141	5.46	+0.27	105
Rogers Pass	53	-8	29	+0	0.66	+0.21	147	3.28	+0.62	123
Roundup	59	-3	31	+2	0.20	-0.18	53	2.45	-0.02	99
Ryegate	56	-7	28	+4	0.17	-0.19	47	2.79	+0.17	106
Stanford	55	-11	29	+3	0.39	-0.13	75	3.37	-0.04	99
Townsend	56	7	30	+2	0.09	-0.20	31	1.89	-0.34	85
Valentine	59	-8	23	-2	0.44	+0.03	107	2.51	-0.14	95
Wht Sulphur Spr	47	1	27	+4	0.09	-0.66	12	3.52	-1.14	76
SOUTHWEST										
Boulder	49	7	29	+3	0.51	+0.14	138	2.47	-0.07	97
Bozeman	51	4	30	+2	0.56	-0.14	80	7.21	+2.11	141
Butte	43	3	25	+4	0.38	-0.01	97	2.07	-0.53	80
Dillon	48	5	29	+2	0.21	+0.01	105	2.53	+0.76	143
Ennis	49	4	28	-1	0.19	-0.22	46	4.57	+1.80	165
Lakeview	43	-15	18	+2	1.14	+0.20	121	6.99	+0.64	110
W Yellowstone	39	3	22	+6	0.98	-0.72	58	10.48	+1.00	111
Wisdom	42	-15	21	+4	0.84	+0.37	179	4.80	+1.61	150
SOUTH CENTRAL										
Billings	59	-4	33	+5	0.05	-0.62	7	3.57	-0.77	82
Cooke City	47	2	26	+11	0.06	-1.82	3	5.07	-4.95	51
Gardiner	46	3	29	+1	0.10	-0.26	28	2.91	+0.04	101
Hardin	59	-4	31	+7	0.17	-0.56	23	2.83	-1.70	62
Huntley	60	-5	29	+4	0.10	-0.39	20	3.45	+0.06	102
Hysham	59	-5	29	+2	0.34	-0.02	94	2.92	-0.01	100
Joliet	56	-2	29	-1	0.08	-0.54	13	3.78	-0.31	92
Livingston	55	-1	32	+2	0.33	-0.13	72	3.25	-0.32	91
Nye	56	5	30	-2	0.50	+0.04	109	4.27	+0.70	120
Rapelje	59	-6	31	+3	0.19	-0.42	31	3.52	-0.30	92
SOUTHEAST										
Albion	48	-13	21	-1	0.27	-0.10	73	2.54	-0.03	99
Baker	41	-11	18	-5	0.31	-0.08	79	1.05	-1.80	37
Broadus	53	-8	26	+1	0.22	-0.24	48	1.59	-1.56	50
Ekalaka	45	-12	21	-4	0.72	+0.27	160	2.45	-0.86	74
Miles City	43	-6	22	-2	0.10	-0.36	22	0.62	-2.47	20
Plevna	48	-12	18	-5	0.49	+0.10	126	1.39	-1.46	49